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DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER • 815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

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80419
November 20, 1980

FUND BOARD REVIEWS
WORK, MAKES GRANTS

GREENWICH, Conn. -- With voluntary contributions given by the people of the Episcopal Church up 46 percent over the previous year, the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief defined its role and responsibilities in an enlarging ministry at its fall Board meeting Nov. 9-11 at Seabury House here.

Richard Wheeler, chairman of the Board's executive committee, presided at the meeting.

The Rev. Samir J. Habiby, director of the Fund, reviewed the continuing support given to the Presiding Bishop's Fund in 1980, noting heartening response to appeals for aid in Africa, especially in war-ravaged Uganda, as well as to meet the desperate needs of refugees, whether isolated in camps abroad or seeking hospice in the United States.

Habiby also noted Presiding Bishop John M. Allin's Christmas/Epiphany Appeal for East Africa Famine Relief. Bishop Allin's letter and an illustrated fact-sheet have been mailed to all parishes and diocesan offices.

Voluntary giving for the first nine months of 1980 totalled $1,727,933, an increase of 46 percent over the contributions made for the same period in 1979. These do not include special funds such as the Venture in Mission gift from the Diocese of Southwest Florida or the monies derived from Church World Service for refugee work.

The Diocese of Colorado, contributing $68,500, currently heads the diocesan list, closely followed by the Dioceses of California, Pennsylvania, Los Angeles and Olympia.

Twenty-two new grants, totalling $279,702, were approved to support short-term development projects and to combat hunger in the United States and overseas. In addition, 10 grants totalling $239,262 were approved to strengthen the Fund's increasing ministry with refugees in the United States and in Latin America and Africa.

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Of special significance was Board action approving $500,000, when available, in support of programs to develop "a long term solution" to crises of famine and hunger abroad.

With $1 million in Venture in Mission funds already allocated or pledged by the Diocese of Southwest Florida for the work of the Fund, and other Venture diocesan contributions expected during the months ahead, the Board accepted sponsorship by the Presiding Bishop's Fund for the work recommended by Edward A. Holmes, newly appointed World sion Project Planning Officer at the Church Center.

Holmes, former director of the Rural Development Institute in Liberia, will seek matching grants from the United States government and private voluntary organizations for such work. Countries in which pilot programs may be attempted are Tanzania, Zaire-Burundi-Rwanda, Haiti, the Philippines, and Ecuador, all of which have requested such assistance.

"The hunger problem," reports Holmes, "is a focus of concerns about food production, storage, processing, distribution, malnutrition, and associated health disorders."

The Rural Development Institute, on the campus of Cuttington College, was financed entirely through a $2.8 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (AID). This project was initiated by the Episcopal Church and was warmly commended at its dedication this fall by the Presiding Bishop and by Liberian government officials.

The 22 non-refugee grants were selected by the grants committe, chaired by the Rt. Rev. Matthew P. Bigliardi of the Diocese of Oregon, from 43 grant requests totalling $760,488. Rehabilitation, hunger, small-scale agricultural development, and education/training projects dominate.

The non-refugee grants included:

- assistance for the Diocese of Southern Malawi for rehabilitation and rebuilding after recent severe flood damage: $20,000;
- construction assistance for St. Luke's Hospital in the City of Nablus, West Bank of the Jordan, the Diocese of Jerusalem: $23,500, with a like sum recommended for 1981;
- support for a local fishing project in the Solomon Islands: $3,120;
- funding in Haiti to provide surgical eye care services and train paraprofessionals: $6,000;
- funds to carry forward construction of a comprehensive secondary school (St. Columba Technical School) in the Diocese of Matabeleland, Zimbabwe: $20,000 with a like sum recommended for 1981;

- support for two rural agricultural training and leadership centers in the Diocese of Mashonaland: $14,000;
- a contribution for the 16-denomination World Hunger Ecumenical Task-force (WHEAT) in Phoenix, Diocese of Arizona: $3,000;
- support for a small farm management assistance program in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts: $10,000;
- seed money to help establish a food bank to serve the greater Philadelphia area, with matching funds from the Diocese of Pennsylvania: $5,000;
- a training program to provide technical assistance for farmers in small communities near Wadesboro, N.C., Diocese of North Carolina: $7,000;
- a grant to the Lost Creek, Ky., grass roots craftsmen cooperative to aid in marketing and organization, an APSO-endorsed project in the Diocese of Kentucky: $3,500;
- a classroom and on-the-job training program, utilizing new video-tape resources, in Berea, Ky., requested through APSO, in the Diocese of Kentucky: $3,500;
- support for a pilot project to aid an American Indian community near Portland, Ore., as it constructs a longhouse and develops a program of arts and crafts: $10,000;
- funding for Florida's Tallahassee-based IMPACT program, coordinating the study of hunger issues statewide and seeking legislative support: $3,000;
- assistance to a welfare rights organizational program in Marion County, near Morgantown, W.Va., endorsed by APSO: $10,000;
- funding for a farmer-controlled marketing program for the bulk sales of fresh fruits and vegetables in the Nashville/Knoxville areas in Tennessee: $7,000;
- assistance for 18 nursery schools in the barrios of the "new towns" of Peru, providing pre-school education and preventative health services for 800 children: $10,000;
- aid for the continuing reconstruction program in Haiti after the damage of Hurricane Allen: $25,000, with further funds authorized in 1981 and 1982;
- a grant to the Social Betterment Program of the Episcopal Church's Ninth Province (Latin America) to help set up church-related building projects in several countries: $12,000, additional support planned for 1981 and 1982.

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Three projects were funded from a special gift from the Diocese of Rochester: teacher training for African women in rural areas of Zimbabwe for three years: $32,727; contributions to a major ecumenical conference on world hunger, involving the university, seminary, and Third World communities, sponsored by the National Council of Churches and in which Dr. David Crean, Church Center Hunger Officer, has shared in planning: $5,000; and a program based in Jamaica to develop and distribute seeds and market-test new strains of plants, "the winged bean," which have high protein values and can be grown elsewhere in the Caribbean: $22,255.

Joseph L. Hargrove of Shreveport, La., chairing the committee on refugee/migration affairs, reported that the Fund's goal of 6,000 sponsored refugees would be met by the end of 1980. Mrs. Robert Dawson, assistant director for migration affairs, stated that this year 81 dioceses are involved in sponsorship of refugees from Indochina, Haiti, Cuba, or Eastern Europe.

The Rev. John Huston, the Fund's national field officer for refugee affairs based in Seattle, reported that the number of persons in United States holding camps was now reduced and that the leadership of private voluntary agencies in this work was now fully recognized by the government. He added that more "person-to-person" involvement throughout the churches and other agencies is essential. Although the response to the urgent needs in Cambodia (Kampuchea) brought more contributions than any other single appeal in recent years, he emphasized that a better understanding of a theology of refugee work is needed.

The Rev. John Corn, legal advisor to the Fund, reported on the continuing assistance of the American Bar Association in securing full legal rights for Cuban and Haitian refugees.

Both Archdeacon Courtland Moore of Dallas and the Rev. Fletcher Davis of Los Angeles, the Fund's regional field officers, gave affirmative reports of their recent work, although stressing its difficulty and complexity. Davis said that "there is absolutely no ministry which is more in the spirit of what our Lord charged us to be about." Sponsorship of refugees, he added, must be a ministry of the whole parish, not just of a few committed families.

Ten grants in support of refugee/migration affairs were authorized, totalling $239,262. In some grants, in which federal programs are carried out, Church World Service funds derived from federal contracts are co-mingled.

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These grants include support for the refugee resettlement programs in the Dioceses of Dallas and Olympia; an ecumenical "Welcome House" for refugees in Milwaukee; a temporary refugee center in Comer, Ga., also supported by a United Thank Offering grant; a program in the Miami area known as S.E.R. Cubanos (Servicios de Emergencia a Refugiados Cubanos); assistance for Uganda refugees; and a comprehensive program for Haitian refugees which will be administered by the Diocese of New York.

Preliminary approval was given by the Board for a new film to document, interpret and support the global dimension of the refugee/migration ministry as well as the sponsorship of refugees in Episcopal parishes. Alva I. Cox, Jr., who produced the Fund's highly successful film, Yes, a Difference, working in close collaboration with Mrs. Dawson and the Rev. Gene White of the Fund's staff, will prepare a treatment of this film for approval by the director and the Board. Final Board authorization for funds to complete this film will await such approval. The basic emphasis of this film is to be motivational: the theological urgency of the work of the Church in ministering to the sojourners and wayfarers of the world.

The refugee/migration committee also introduced two resolutions which were recommended for action by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church and subsequently approved by Council: a protest against new regulations which imposed restrictions on Cambodians as related to other Indochinese refugees, and a plea to keep the oversight of refugees in the hands of the State Department rather than any other government agency.

The Rev. Canon C. Eugene Jennings of San Antonio, chairman of the administration and finance committee, reviewed the Fund's 1981 budget. Substantially increased funding was necessary for the Inter-Church Medical Assistance (IMA) agency because A.I.D. no longer picks up overseas freight costs for chipment of medicines. Pharmaceutical firms continue to make medical supplies available to IMA at drastically reduced cost. IMA distributes these supplies abroad on behalf of the Fund and other participating denominations.

A second budget revision was made to allow the Episcopal Church, through the Presiding Bishop's Fund, to become a full member of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Services.

The Rt. Rev. Philip A. Smith, Bishop of New Hampshire and chairman of the education and communication committee, reported on the status of resource materials, including the recent Episcopalian four page supplement, 1981 materials, and a new slide presentation on the history and work of the Fund.

Smith's committee is reviewing the effectiveness of communication support for annual and special appeals, is strengthening the diocesan network of representatives, and is taking part in the planning for the proposed film on refugee ministry.

Three legacies for the Presiding Bishop's Fund were announced. At this time, only income from these legacies can be used: a memorial of approximately $260,000 to Donald H. Bell, gift of Mrs. Margaret L. Willard, representing 20 percent of a gift from Mrs. Willard to the Diocese of Central Florida, proceeds of the gift to be received over a period of five years; a legacy of $2,500 from the Estate of Edna May Carr of Rosville, Minn.; and a legacy of approximately $65,000 from the estate of Grace L. Phillips of Olympia, Wash.

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